

Executive Summary

In this annual report, *Idaho Traffic Collisions 2005*, the Idaho Transportation Department, Office of Traffic and Highway Safety presents descriptive statistics about reportable traffic crashes, from those that result in property damage in excess of \$750 to any one single piece of property to those that result in the loss of human life.

A summary of findings for 2005 are listed below:

- Idaho's fatality rate per 100 million vehicle miles traveled was 1.84 in 2005. Idaho's rate is still significantly higher than the National fatality rate per 100 million vehicle miles traveled, which was estimated to be 1.46 in 2005.
- While the number of motor vehicle collisions decreased by 0.3 percent to 28,238 in 2005, the number of fatalities resulting from motor vehicle collisions increased to 275 from 260 in 2004, an 6 percent increase.
- Just over 36 percent of the motor vehicle fatalities were the result of impaired driving. Of the 100 persons killed in impaired driving crashes, 86 percent were either the impaired driver, a person riding with an impaired driver, or an impaired pedestrian.
- Idaho's observed seat belt use reached an all time high of 76 percent in 2005. While the observed rate was 76 percent, only 40 percent of the motor vehicle occupants killed in collisions were wearing seat belts. If everyone had been wearing seat belts, 63 lives may have been saved.
- Aggressive driving was a contributing factor in 55 percent of the motor vehicle collisions in 2005 and was a factor in 48 percent of the resulting fatalities.
- Youthful drivers, ages 15 to 19, continue to be over-involved in motor vehicle crashes. In 2005, youthful drivers were involved in 2.5 times as many fatal and injury collisions as you would expect them to be and were 2.8 times as likely as all other drivers to be involved in a fatal and injury crash.
- There were 9 pedestrians and 3 bicyclists killed in motor vehicle crashes in 2005.
- Collisions involving motorcycles continued to rise in 2005. Just over half of all motorcycle collisions involved a single motorcycle. There were 26 motorcyclists killed in motor vehicle collisions in 2005.
- While the number of collisions involving commercial motor vehicles increased 3 percent to 1,983 in 2005, the number of fatalities resulting from collisions with commercial motor vehicles decreased from 31 in 2004 to 30 in 2005.